

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #35

FOCUS Linking and Helping Verbs

A **linking verb** is a mental action or state of being. A **helping verb** shows time, number, or modifies the meaning of a verb.

CONNECT TO WRITING

A linking verb renames or describes the subject of the sentence with another word or words.

Each “to be” verb can be a linking verb: *is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been*

Examples: Mrs. Patterson was here. My friends are so nice.

Verbs that use the five senses: *look, sound, smell, feel, taste* and others: *appear, seem, become, grow, turn, prove, remain* can also be used as linking verbs.

Examples: Charlie feels awful. The children became tired.

Helping verbs are placed before the base form of the verb and any verb endings. More than one helping verb can be used in a sentence. Sometimes a word such as *not* separates the helping verb from the base form of the verb. A helping verb can also be placed before a linking verb to modify its meaning. English has 23 helping verbs:

is, am, are, was, were, be, being, been, has, have, had, do, does, did, will, shall, should, would, can, could, may, might, must

PRACTICE

Write LV to identify linking verbs and HV to identify helping verbs in the spaces provided.

Lydia was ___ sure that she saw both of her friends at the mall. Her friends had ___ told her that they were ___ going to the library to study, but that did ___ not turn ___ out to be ___ true.

Good friends would not have ___ lied to her. Why they felt ___ like they had ___ to lie to Lydia would ___ be ___ anyone’s guess. It seems ___ like Lydia should ___ find some new friends.

WRITE

Write a sentence with both linking and helping verbs.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet Answers

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #31 Practice Answers

1. closer 2. harder 3. more 4. worse 5. happier

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #32 Practice Answers

1. quickest 2. more 3. biggest 4. best

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #33 Practice Answers

1. more (less) difficult 2. more outstanding 3. more (less) incredible
4. more ridiculous 5. more (less) suspiciously 6. more (less) suspected 7. more (less) nervously

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #34 Practice Answers

1. most considerate 2. least specifically 3. most carefully 4. most understood
5. most simply 6. least frequently

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #35 Practice Answers

was LV; had HV told; were HV going; did HV not turn LV; to be LV; would HV not have HV
lied; felt LV; had HV; would HV be LV; seems LV; should HV find

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #36 Practice Answers

1. permission 2. possibility 3. requirement 4. need 5. expectation 6. ability
7. advice

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #37 Practice Answers

1. Penny helped at the senior center after school. 2. Cowboys roped and branded their cattle.
3. That radio station played all of my favorite songs. 4. Tamesia touched her left cheek every
time she raised her hand in class.

Grammar, Usage, and Mechanics Worksheet #38 Practice Answers

1. Larry was enjoying the beautiful sunsets at the beach. 2. They were expecting a lot of money
for their used car. 3. Her friends were sleeping in the living room when the fire alarm sounded.
4. Rosie was going to the movies.